



District Summer Reading List



Incoming 8th Graders for the 2017 – 2018 School Year

Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of summer reading is to encourage students to read an approved novel that appeals to their own personal interests, instilling a love of reading as well as increasing literacy across the district. The following books were chosen based on many criteria, including reading level, content, interest, and more.

Students should choose one book to read over the summer from the grade-level list below*. Happy reading!

Title	Author	Genre	Synopsis
<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i>	Stephen Crane	Historical Fiction	Henry Fleming, a private in the Union Army, runs away from the field of war. Afterwards, the shame he feels at this act of cowardice ignites his desire to receive an injury in combat—a “red badge of courage” that will redeem him. Stephen Crane’s novel about a young soldier’s experiences during the American Civil War is well known for its understated naturalism and its realistic depiction of battle.
<i>The Contender</i>	Robert Lipsyte	Fiction	Alfred Brooks is scared. He’s a high school dropout and his grocery store job is leading nowhere. His best friend is sinking further and further into drug addiction. Some street kids are after him for something he didn't even do. So Alfred begins going to Donatelli's Gym, a boxing club in Harlem that has trained champions. There he learns it's the effort, not the win, that makes the man -- that last desperate struggle to get back on your feet when you thought you were down for the count.
<i>Gathering Blue</i>	Lois Lowry	Fiction – Utopia/Dystopia	Lois Lowry won her first Newbery Medal in 1994 for <i>The Giver</i> . Six years later, she ushered readers back into its mysterious but plausible future world in <i>Gathering Blue</i> to tell the story of Kira, orphaned, physically flawed, and left with an uncertain future. This second book in the Giver Quartet has been stunningly redesigned in paperback. <i>Gathering Blue</i> challenges readers to imagine what our world could become, how people could evolve, and what could be considered valuable.
<i>The Man in the Brown Suit</i>	Agatha Christie	Fiction - Mystery	Agatha Christie, the acknowledged mistress of suspense brings her entire oeuvre of ingenious whodunits, locked room mysteries, and perplexing puzzles to William Morrow Paperbacks. <i>The Man in the Brown Suit</i> is Christie at her best, as a young woman makes a dangerous decision to investigate a shocking “accidental” death she witnesses at a London tube station.

***Teachers may request to add a book to this list by submitting it through the school’s novel selection process.**